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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
Fifty-ninth session
New York
24 March - 11 April 1997

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The fifty-ninth session of the Human Rights Committee will be held at the United Nations Headquarters from 24 March to 11 April 1997. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 24 March 1997 at 10.30 a.m.

2. In accordance with rule 6 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has prepared, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, the attached provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session. Annotations to the provisional agenda are also attached.

3. Pursuant to rule 33 of the Committee's rules of procedure the meetings of the Committee will be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise or it appears from the relevant provisions of the Covenant or the Optional Protocol that the meetings should be held in private.

4. The attention of States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 8 which contain the tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the fifty-ninth session. In accordance with rule 68 of the Committee's rules of procedure, representatives of States parties may be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined.

5. At its fifty-eighth session, the Committee decided that two working groups, established under rules 62 and 89 of its rules of procedure, should meet for a period of one week prior to its fifty-ninth session. The working groups are scheduled to meet at the United Nations Headquarters from 17 to 21 March 1997.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the Representative of the Secretary-General

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee in accordance with article 38 of the Covenant

3. Election of the Chairperson and other officers of the Committee

4. Adoption of the agenda.

5. Organizational and other matters.

6. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session:

   (a) Annual report submitted by the Human Rights Committee under article 45 of the Covenant;

   (b) Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments.

7. Submission of reports by State parties under article 40 of the Covenant.

8. Consideration of reports submitted by State parties under article 40 of the Covenant.

9. General Comments of the Committee

10. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

11. Follow-up on views adopted pursuant to article 5, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant

12. Future meetings of the Committee

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session by the Representative of the Secretary-General

The Representative of the Secretary-General will open the fifty-ninth session of the Committee and will preside over the meeting until the election of the Chairperson of the Committee.

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee in accordance with article 38 of the Covenant

In accordance with article 38 of the Covenant and rule 16 of the rules of procedure, the nine members of the Committee elected or re-elected at the Sixteenth Meeting of States parties to the Covenant on 12 September 1996, will make the following solemn declaration:

"I solemnly undertake to discharge my duties as a member of the Human Rights Committee impartially and conscientiously".

3. Election of the Chairperson and other officers of the Committee

In accordance with article 39, paragraph 1, of the Covenant and rule 18 of the rules of procedure, the Committee shall elect from among its members a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. The Officers of the Committee shall be elected for a term of two years.

Under rule 58 of the rules of procedure, elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Committee decides otherwise in the case of an election to fill a place for which there is only one candidate.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

Under rule 8 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda of any session shall follow the election of officers when required under rule 17. In accordance with rule 9, during a session, the Committee may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, defer or delete items; only urgent and important items may be added to the agenda.

5. Organizational and other matters.

Under this item, the Committee will consider its programme of work for the session. In this connection, it may be noted that the Committee decided at its fifty-eighth session to set up, in addition to the pre-sessional working group on communications, a working group under article 40 of the Covenant to prepare concise lists of issues concerning reports scheduled for consideration at the fifty-ninth session and to consider any draft general comment that may be put before it.

6. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session

(a) Annual report submitted by the Human Rights Committee under article 45 of the Covenant;

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/175 of 18 December 1990, substantive resolutions on treaty-based bodies are adopted biennially ("odd years"). Consequently, the adoption by the Assembly of a substantive resolution on the work of the Committee is reserved until its fifty-second session in 1997.

(b) Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments.

A note indicating matters raised in the course of the discussion of the effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments by the Third Committee together with the relevant General Assembly resolution will be circulated to members of the Committee.

7. Submission of reports by State parties under article 40 of the Covenant.

Reports received

In addition to the reports which are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session (see the timetable for consideration of reports under item 8 below), the Secretary-General has received the reports of the following States parties :

State party	Symbol	Report	Date due	Date received
Slovakia	CCPR/C/81/Add.9	Initial	1993	09.01.1996
Lithuania	CCPR/C/81/Add.10	Initial	1993	16.04.1996
Zimbabwe	CCPR/C/74/Add.3	Initial	1992	20.11.1996
Congo	CCPR/C/63/Add.5	Second	1990	09.07.1996
France	CCPR/C/76/Add.7	Third	1992	15.03.1996
Cyprus	CCPR/C/94/Add.1	Third	1994	28.12.1994
Iceland	CCPR/C/94/Add.2	Third	1994	23.03.1995
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	CCPR/C/102/Add.1	Third	1995	29.11.1995
Belgium	CCPR/C/94/Add.3	Third	1994	21.08.1996
Belarus	CCPR/C/84/Add.4	Fourth	1993	11.04.1995
Finland	CCPR/C/95/Add.6	Fourth	1994	10.08.1995
Romania	CCPR/C/95/Add.7	Fourth	1994	26.04.1996
Senegal	CCPR/C/103/Add.1	Fourth	1995	19.09.1995
Iraq	CCPR/C/103/Add.2	Fourth	1995	05.02.1996
Poland	CCPR/C/95/Add.8	Fourth	1994	07.05.1996
Italy	CCPR/C/103/Add.4	Fourth	1995	30.10.1996

Reports due

The situation with regard to the submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant is as follows:

States parties whose reports were due by the closing date of the fifty-eighth session (8 November 1996) but have not yet been received.

INITIAL REPORTS

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
Equatorial Guinea	24 December 1988	14
Somalia	23 April 1991	9
Croatia	7 October 1992	5
Grenada	5 December 1992	4
the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	16 September 1992	2
Israel	2 January 1993	6
Albania	3 January 1993	6
Bosnia - Herzegovina	05 March 1993	2
Angola[1]	9 April 1993	2
Benin	11 June 1993	4
Côte d'Ivoire	25 June 1993	3
Seychelles	4 August 1993	4
Cambodia	25 August 1993	2
Lesotho	08 December 1993	1
Czech Republic	31 December 1993	2
Moldova	25 April 1994	3
Ethiopia	10 September 1994	3
Dominica	16 September 1994	3
Armenia	22 September 1994	3
Mozambique	20 October 1994	3
Cape Verde	05 November 1994	1
Malawi	21 March 1995	2
Kyrgystan	6 January 1996	-
Namibia	27 February 1996	-
Chad	8 September 1996	-
Uganda	20 September 1996	-

SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
Syrian Arab Republic	18 August 1984	24
Gambia	21 June 1985	22
Suriname	2 August 1985	21
Kenya	11 April 1986	20
Mali	11 April 1986	20
Jamaica	1 August 1986	18
Guyana	10 April 1987	18
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	13 December 1987	16
Central African Republic	9 April 1989	13
Gabon	20 April 1989	-
Viet Nam	31 July 1991	8
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	31 October 1991	9
San Marino	17 January 1992	8
Sudan	17 June 1992	6
Philippines	22 January 1993	6
Equatorial Guinea[2]	24 December 1993	4
Niger	31 March 1994	4
Algeria	11 December 1995	-
Ireland	7 March 1996	-
Somalia[2]	23 April 1996	-
Republic of Korea	9 July 1996	-
Burundi	8 August 1996	-

THIRD PERIODIC REPORTS

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
Lebanon	21 March 1988	-
Syrian Arab Republic[3]	18 August 1989	13
Trinidad and Tobago	20 March 1990	12
Gambia[3]	21 June 1990	11
Suriname[3]	2 August 1990	11
Barbados	11 April 1991	10
Kenya[3]	11 April 1991	10
Mali[3]	11 April 1991	10
Nicaragua	11 June 1991	9
Zaire	31 July 1991	9

THIRD PERIODIC REPORTS (ctd)

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
Jamaica[3]	1 August 1991	9
Australia	12 November 1991	8
Panama	31 March 1992	8
Guyana[3]	10 April 1992	8
Rwanda[1]	10 April 1992	2
Madagascar	31 July 1992	7
Central African Republic[3]	7 August 1992	7
Democratic People's Republic of Korea[3]	13 December 1992	6
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines[3]	8 February 1993	6
Austria	9 April 1993	5
Bolivia	11 November 1993	-
Viet Nam[3]	23 December 1993	-
Tanzania	31 December 1993	4
Venezuela	31 December 1993	4
Gabon	20 April 1994	-
Afghanistan	23 April 1994	-
Luxembourg	17 November 1994	2
Bulgaria	31 December 1994	2
Egypt	31 December 1994	2
Guinea	31 December 1994	2
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	31 December 1994	2
Congo	04 January 1995	-
Cameroon	26 September 1995	1
El Salvador	31 December 1995	-
Togo	31 December 1995	-

FOURTH PERIODIC REPORTS

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
Lebanon	21 March 1993	-
Panama[4]	6 June 1993	5
Madagascar[4]	3 August 1993	5
Yugoslavia	3 August 1993	5
Ecuador	4 November 1993	5
Dominican Republic	3 April 1994	4
Chile	28 April 1994	3
Syrian Arab Republic[3/4]	18 August 1994	3
Uruguay	31 December 1994	2
Trinidad and Tobago[4]	20 March 1995	2

FOURTH PERIODIC REPORTS (ctd)

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
Canada	4 April 1995	2
Mongolia	4 April 1995	2
Gambia[3/4]	21 June 1995	1
India	9 July 1995	-
Costa Rica	2 August 1995	1
Hungary	2 August 1995	1
Suriname[3/4]	2 August 1995	1
Venezuela	1 November 1995	1
Denmark	1 November 1995	-
El Salvador	28 February 1996	-
Barbados	11 April 1996	-
Kenya	11 April 1996	-
Mali	11 April 1996	-
Tanzania	11 April 1996	-
Nicaragua	11 June 1996	-
Jamaica	1 August 1996	-
Norway	1 August 1996	-
Portugal	1 August 1996	-
Sri Lanka	10 September 1996	-
Japan	31 October 1996	-
Morocco	31 October 1996	-

States parties whose reports are to be submitted between the closing date of the Committee's fifty-eighth session (8 November 1996) and the closing date of its fifty-ninth session (11 April 1997)

Third periodic reports

State party	Date due
San Marino	17 January 1997

Fourth periodic reports

State party	Date due
Jordan	22 January 1997
France	3 February 1997
Guyana	10 April 1997

8. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant

A tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the fifty-ninth session, prepared in consultation with the Chairman and subject to approval by the Committee, is given below:

Timetable for consideration of reports of States parties

Bolivia (second periodic)	CCPR/C/63/Add.4	Tuesday, a.m./p.m.	25 March 1997
Georgia (initial)	CCPR/C/100/Add.1	Wednesday, a.m./p.m.	26 March 1997
		Thursday, a.m.	27 March 1997
Colombia (fourth periodic)	CCPR/C/103/Add.3	Monday, a.m./p.m.	31 March 1997
India (third periodic)	CCPR/C/76/Add.6	Wednesday, a.m./p.m.	2 April 1997
Portugal (Macau) (third periodic)	CCPR/C/70/Add.9	Friday, a.m./p.m.	4 April 1997
Lebanon (second periodic)	CCPR/C/42/Add.14	Monday, a.m./p.m.	7 April 1997

In accordance with rule 68 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their respective reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session.

9. General Comment of the Committee

Under this item, the Committee will consider any draft general comment that may be put before it by its pre-sessional Working Group on article 40.

10. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVII of the rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are or appear to be submitted to it under the Optional Protocol.

One hundred and forty one communications are pending before the Committee from earlier sessions. Taking into account the deadlines established by the Committee for submission of further information from the parties, 44 cases (earlier declared admissible) may be considered for the adoption of final views and 97 cases may be considered for a decision on admissibility. In addition, the Committee will have before it summaries of a number of recently registered communications and summaries of new communications registered after its last session, together with an indication of any action which may have been taken by the Special Rapporteur for new communications.

In accordance with article 5, para.3, of the Optional Protocol and rule 82 of the Committee's rules of procedure, this agenda item will be considered in closed meetings.

11. Follow-up on views adopted pursuant to article 5, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant

Under this item, the Committee will assess the status of follow-up activities under the Optional Protocol and examine periodic reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur for the Follow-Up on Views.

12. Future meetings of the Committee

As the calendar of meetings held within the framework of the United nations is submitted by the Secretary-General on a biennial basis for the approval of the Committee on Conferences and the General Assembly, the Committee may wish to take decisions under this item on the schedule of its meetings to be held in 1998 and 1999.

Notes

1. The Committee has requested the Government to submit a special report for discussion by the Committee.

2. The State party's initial report has not yet been received

3. The States Party's second periodic report has not yet been received

4. The States party's third periodic report has not yet been received